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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1133  
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and honor the administration, faculty, staff, and student body of the Harding Academy of Memphis, Inc. on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those exemplary education institutions and their remarkable personnel who, through their unwavering commitments to excellence, are credits to this state; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy establishment is Harding Academy, which has remained a pillar of educational excellence for fifty years; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1952 as Memphis Christian Schools, the Harding Academy of Memphis, Inc., is a college preparatory day-school, which is committed to the pursuit of academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary efforts of the many good Christians who first envisioned the school as well as the dedication of the first Principal, Mrs. Worth B. Powers, and the school's initial faculty and staff established the foundation for the now thriving Harding Academy, which

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has grown to include two early childhood development schools, five elementary schools, and a junior-senior high school; and

WHEREAS, during its first year, the Memphis Christian School met in the Normal Street Church of Christ building; under the astute guidance of Principal Powers, the school relocated into the King Mansion at 1000 Cherry Road the following year; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, the Harding College of Searcy, Arkansas, assumed control of the school, and the name was changed to the Memphis Harding Academy; and

WHEREAS, the high school moved to its present location at 1100 Cherry Road in 1958; and

WHEREAS, separating from Harding College in 1978, Harding Academy became an independent school, functioning under the direction of its own Board of Directors; at this time, the school changed its name to the Harding Academy of Memphis, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Harding Academy established the Little Harding Cherry Road program, which is now known as Early Childhood-Cherry Road; undertaking the care and development of two- and three-year-old children, the program offers a strong early childhood development program in a positive and supportive Christian environment; and

WHEREAS, committed to providing a well-balanced education, Harding Academy, in its formative years, operated neighborhood elementary programs in Church of Christ buildings throughout Memphis; and

WHEREAS, as the student body has grown, the Academy's facilities have also expanded; in 1996, Harding Academy opened its first stand-alone elementary facility in Cordova and established the Early Childhood Cordova program; and

WHEREAS, today, the secondary campus's facilities include well-equipped classrooms, two state-of-the-art computer labs, a modern library, a 1500-seat auditorium, and athletic facilities that include three gymnasiums, a football and track stadium, lighted tennis courts, and soccer, softball, and baseball fields; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2001, Harding Academy completed a 54,000 square foot expansion project at the Cordova campus to house classrooms for grades one through six; this marvelous addition is adjacent to the first stand-alone campus, which now houses the Harding Early Childhood and Kindergarten programs in Cordova; and

WHEREAS, the talented and accomplished educators of Harding Academy strive daily to fulfill the academy's mission of developing in their students strong moral character and faith in God; singular in purpose, the faculty of Harding Academy stands as exemplary role models of resolute faith, stalwart virtue, and dedicated service to God and community; and

WHEREAS, producing young men and women who are confident, open to new ideas, and excited by challenges, the Harding Academy instills in each student the core values of integrity, service, and excellence; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, the Harding Academy has supported and complemented the Christian home and church, establishing an exceptional tradition of academic excellence which is sure to continue to better the lives and touch the hearts of children of this State for years to come; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it fitting to acknowledge and applaud the Harding Academy upon its golden anniversary for its dedication to Tennessee's children and our future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we congratulate the Harding Academy of Memphis, Inc., upon its outstanding history of academic achievement, commend the administration, staff, faculty, alumni, and current student body for their meritorious service, and extend to them all our best wishes as they celebrate their fiftieth year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.